

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Legislative Session**  
**September 12, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

President Cohn announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and President Cohn. Mayor John Thompson Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Solicitor Michael Witherel were also present. Ms. Ervin and Ms. Macklin were absent. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Wayne Staples – 1909 Wright St.** – Commented on the paving of Wright Street and questioned why parking tickets were issued after residents had moved their cars back following street paving. He expressed concerns regarding the process and suggested it be reviewed and changed. Ms. Evans commented that the parking restrictions are established to allow for infrastructure improvements, such as tree pruning, not solely street cleaning.

**Kate Luxemburg – 432 Rebecca Ave.** – Ms. Luxemburg commented on the Portnoff Law Associates presentation last week and distributed a hand-out to Council. She commented that aggressive tax collection enforcement is not effective. She suggested the delinquent tax collector should collect taxes under Act 45.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Department of Energy – SunShot Solar Rooftop Challenge Project  
Jay Rickabaugh, Project Coordinator – CONNECT

President Cohn introduced Mr. Rickabaugh from CONNECT, the Congress of Neighboring Communities. Mr. Rickabaugh provided a summary of the project. Mr.

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Rickabaugh has been working with Sean Gramz, Code Enforcement Director and Marla Marcinko, Borough Manager. The goal of the project is to provide a model ordinance to guide code enforcement legislation relative to solar panels for on-site use. Ms. Moore asked if the ordinance will regulate future installations and Mr. Rickabaugh responded that it would. President Cohn commented that it sounds like a good program and questioned whether there is an eye toward standardizing the process, making the installations safer and encouraging more applications. Mr. Rickabaugh stated that was the goal. Per the Department of Energy, standardization can actually lower installation costs. President Cohn asked whether additional grants would be available. Mr. Rickabaugh commented that the first phase is to establish consistent regulations across regions, with the second phase covering financing options. CONNECT is working with major third party electrical inspectors toward a standard fee.

Ms. Evans asked for an update on the Parkway East ramp metering project. CONNECT is holding meetings to determine the best strategy to address this matter.

Ms. Evans asked for an update on the best practices for street openings. Mr. Rickabaugh advised that CONNECT was in the process of gathering data.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Adopting Ordinance No. 2897 – Establishing Handicap Parking Space  
1140 South Ave.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Goodman

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**2. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 08/01/12.**

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Ms. Moore asked for corrections for Gameos and Leslie Moore.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**3. Approving July Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:**

Regular Distributions – July 1-31, 2012	\$ 1,705,777.62
Payroll Disbursements	369,080.13
Voided Checks	<u>(57,494.73)</u>
Total	\$ 2,017,363.02

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**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,  
President Cohn

**No:** Ms. Trice

**Motion carried 6:1**

**4. Approving August Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:**

Regular Distributions – August 1-31, 2012	\$ 703,306.50
Payroll Disbursements	232,213.30
Voided Checks	<u>(349.07)</u>
Total	\$ 935,170.73

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Yes:** Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,  
President Cohn

**No:** Ms. Trice

**Motion carried 6:1**

**5. Approving Resolution No. 12-076 – Adopting Family Medical Leave Act Policy.**

**Moved:** Ms. Goodman

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**6. Approving Resolution No. 12-077 – Appointing Brandon Boan – Community Art & Civic Design Commission.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Trice questioned the term and vacancy being filled. Mr. Boan is not filling an unexpired term. He is filling a vacancy on the Commission. Ms. Trice commented that the prior Personnel Committee had not received this Talent Bank Application. Ms. Marcinko advised that was indeed the case as the appointment of this individual at the time when the Commission was initially seated was not recommended at that time.

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**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**7. Approving Resolution No. 12-078 – Appointing Rose Morris –  
Community Art & Civic Design Commission.**

**Moved:** Ms. Evans

**Second by:** Ms. Goodman

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Trice requested that two tax delinquent collection firms make presentations to Council. President Cohn stated that he is not in favor of hearing from firms which have indicated an interest and suggested instead that a Request for Proposals be issued should that be the consensus of Council. President Cohn commented that the meeting with Portnoff Law Associates had been productive and he encouraged that additional questions or comments be directed to PLA. Ms. Trice was not able to attend the meeting as she was out of town. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson stated her concerns with the manner in which residents are treated and the collection costs for delinquent Municipal Service Fees. President Cohn expressed concern with traditional collectors wherein the Borough would be responsible for the administrative fees and costs. Ms. Trice expressed concern that the current collector does not have a local office. Council will revisit the RFP discussion in January.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Request letter of support to challenge Act 13 of 2012.**

Ms. Goodman read aloud a letter received from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) about the filing of an amicus brief and seeking the Borough's support by joining the action. The brief is in opposition to Act 13 which would erode the ability of municipalities to regulate gas well drilling operations in their communities. Ms. Goodman requested Council's concurrence in sending a letter of support.

President Cohn commented that Brandon Boan, appointed to the Wilkesburg Community Art and Civic Design Commission, has an art exhibit at the Space Gallery in Pittsburgh that is interesting.

Mayor Thompson announced that applications are being accepted for citizen recognition for the commemorative 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. Pictures of Council members are requested. Mayor Thompson advised that an event will be held on October 5, 2012 from 6-10 p.m. at the Hosanna House. The parade will be held on Oct. 6, 2012 with staging to begin at 9:00 AM and the parade will start at 11:00 AM. The gala will be held on Oct. 6,

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2012 at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville and an ecumenical service will be held at Hosanna House on October 7.

The Mayor announced that a new Boy Scout Troop was started about 7 months ago and they are seeking member between the ages of 11-17. Meetings are every Tuesday from 6-8:30 p.m. at Hosanna House.

President Cohn commented that he has photos taken for the website that can be used for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book.

Ms. Evans announced that the Penn State School of Landscape Architecture is working on a concept drawing for several vacant lots in the area. An email was sent to Council members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Ms. Moore, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

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Jason Cohn, Council President

